BATMAN
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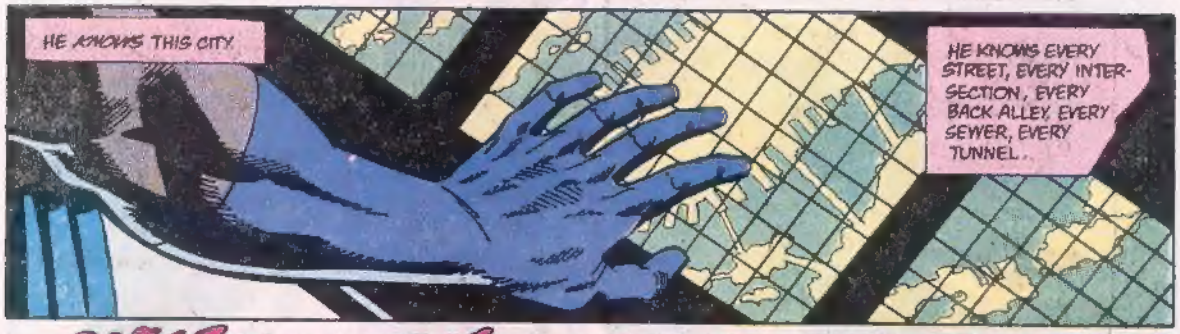

WHEN THE EARTH DIES!

CHAPTER ONE: RED SQUARE! BLOODY SQUARE!

ALL OF GOTHAM IS HIS CITY. NOT JUST THE UPPER EAST SIDE PARK ROW BROWNSTONES, OR THE MIDTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT, OR THE DOWNTOWN FINANCIAL ARENAS.
THE BLACK AND SPANISH GHETTOS, THE PARKS FILLED WITH TRANSIENTS, THE BOWERY WITH ITS ADDICTS AND DRUNKARDS, THEY ARE PART OF HIS CITY, TOO.
AND THEY ARE ALSO HIS TO PROTECT.
FORGET IT, SLASHER--
--YOUR BLOOD SPREE'S OVER!
BBZZZZZZZZ
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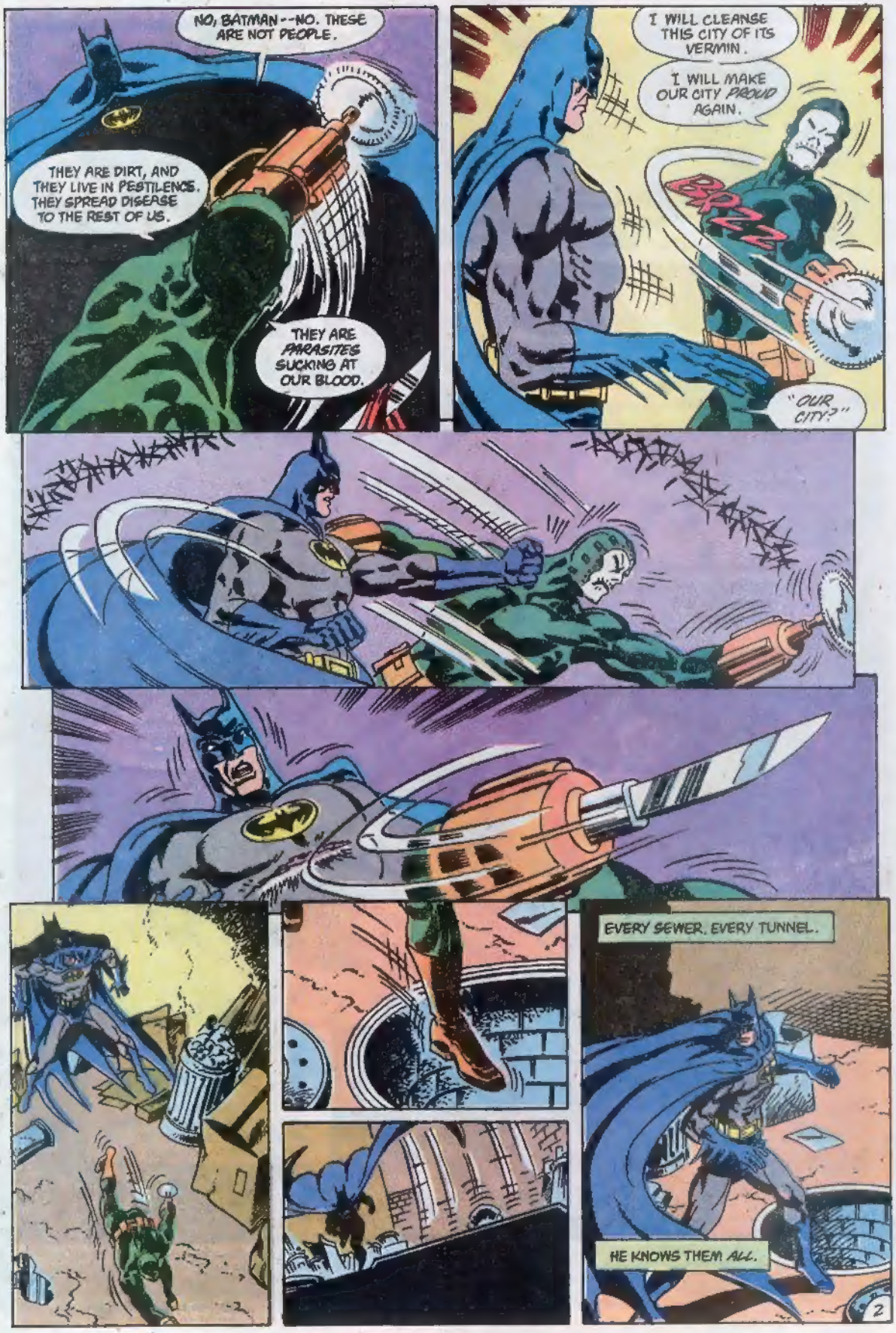

NO, BATMAN--NO. THESE ARE NOT PEOPLE.
THEY ARE DIRT, AND THEY LIVE IN PESTILENCE. THEY SPREAD DISEASE TO THE REST OF US.
THEY ARE PARASITES SUCKING AT OUR BLOOD.
I WILL CLEANSE THIS CITY OF ITS VERMIN.
I WILL MAKE OUR CITY PROUD AGAIN.
BRZZ
"OUR CITY?"
EVERY SEWER. EVERY TUNNEL.
HE KNOWS THEM ALL.
2

HE KNOWS WHERE THEY BEGIN. HE KNOWS THEIR WINDING PATHWAYS...
AND BETTER...
...HE KNOWS WHERE THEY COME TO AN END.
B-BATMAN
GOTHAM ISN'T YOUR CITY, SLASHER.
IT BELONGS TO ITS PEOPLE.
NOT TO ITS VERMIN.
3

POLICE DETECTIVE NIKITA KRAKOV WAS ROUSTED OUT OF BED AT 4:23 A.M. AS ALWAYS, HIS WIFE SLEPT THROUGH THE FRANTIC PHONE CALL.
CUT IN HALF?*
* Translated from the Russian.
AS DISGUSTING AS ALL THE OTHERS.
DIMITRI, I WISH I WERE A RELIGIOUS MAN...
...THEN I WOULD FEEL JUSTIFIED IN PRAYING FOR HELP.
ANY IDENTIFICATION?
POLITBURO MEMBER, YURI GREGAROFF.
NUMBER THREE ON HIS LIST.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THAT LIST AGAIN.
OR OF HIM.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF IT!
NO... I AM SORRY. IT IS EARLY. I AM TIRED. AND I WOULD RATHER BE HOME.
HAVE YOU ALERTED THE KGB?
AS SOON AS WE HAD IDENTIFICATION.
THEN, THEY WILL TAKE OVER THE INVESTIGATION.
AND PERHAPS I MIGHT YET GET A FULL NIGHT'S SLEEP.
4

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MR. KESEGAN, WE CAN'T JUST ASK HIM TO FLY TO THE SOVIET UNION--
AND WHY NOT, COMMIS-SIONER?
H-HE DOESN'T WORK FOR US. IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN, BUT... HE'S A FREE-LANCER.
HE... UM... COOPERATES WITH US. WE, UHH-- DO THE SAME WITH HIM. SOMETIMES. AS I SAY, HARD TO EXPLAIN.
IF YOU CANNOT ORDER HIS COOPERATION...
PERHAPS HE CAN BE ENTICED. WE HAVE A... PROBLEM. DO YOU REMEMBER THE BEAST?
REMEMBER? I STILL HAVEN'T REPLACED HALF THE MEN HE KILLED.
HE WAS A KGB KILLER--
NO. HE WAS A RENEGADE WHO ALMOST BEGAN A WAR BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.
THE BEAST HAD A PROTEGE, ONE GREGOR DOSYNSKI.
TWO MONTHS AFTER THE BEAST WAS DEFEATED, DOSYNSKI VANISHED. TWO WEEKS AGO WE RECEIVED THIS LETTER FROM HIM.
"ANATOLI KNYAZEV WAS A PATRIOT. OUR GOVERNMENT TRAINED HIM, THEN TURNED THEIR BACK ON HIM AND WORKED WITH THE IMPERIALISTS TO STOP AND CAPTURE HIM.
"WE HAVE GROWN WEAK. WE HAVE GIVEN UP THE TENETS OF MARXISM AND HAVE ADOPTED THE WAYS OF THE AMERICANS.
"THIS MUST NOT HAPPEN. AS HE TARGETED TEN AMERICANS TO DIE, I TARGET TEN SOVIET TRAITORS.
"TEN WHO HAVE MADE OUR COUNTRY WEAK. TEN WHO MUST DIE TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY STRONG AGAIN.
"AND WHEN THE FINAL TRAITOR DIES, ALL THE WORLD WILL KNOW OUR TRUE STRENGTH."
THREE HAVE ALREADY BEEN KILLED. IN THE MOST GRUESOME WAYS.
5

BUT WHY, BATMAN?
HE WAS THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF STOPPING THE KGB EAST.
WE BELIEVE, HE MAY BE THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF STOPPING THE DEMON.
THE DEMON?
"AS KNYAZEV WAS THE KGB'S MOST FEROCIOUS AGENT, DOSYNSKI SERVED IN AN EQUAL CAPACITY FOR THE NKVD.
"YEARS AGO HE EARNED THE NICK-NAME, 'THE NKVDEMON.'"
ALFRED, PLEASE ARRANGE FOR A VISA INTO THE SOVIET UNION.
I'M CONSIDERING OPENING A DIVISION OF WAYNE INDUSTRIES THERE.
AHHH, AN ACTUAL WORK BUSINESS TRIP, OR SHOULD I PACK YOUR GRAY AND BLACK SUIT?
INCLUDE IT, ALFRED. I'VE GOT SOME LEFTOVER BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
AND SOME FAILURES TO CORRECT.
WHAT OF TIMOTHY? HE'S WAITING FOR HIS TIME IN THE SPOTLIGHT.
I'M NOT SENDING AN INEXPERIENCED KID INTO THE FIELD.
NOT AGAIN.
AND WHILE I'M GONE, ALFRED, SEE WHAT YOU CAN LEARN ABOUT HIS PARENTS.
SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON WITH THEM.
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS.
6

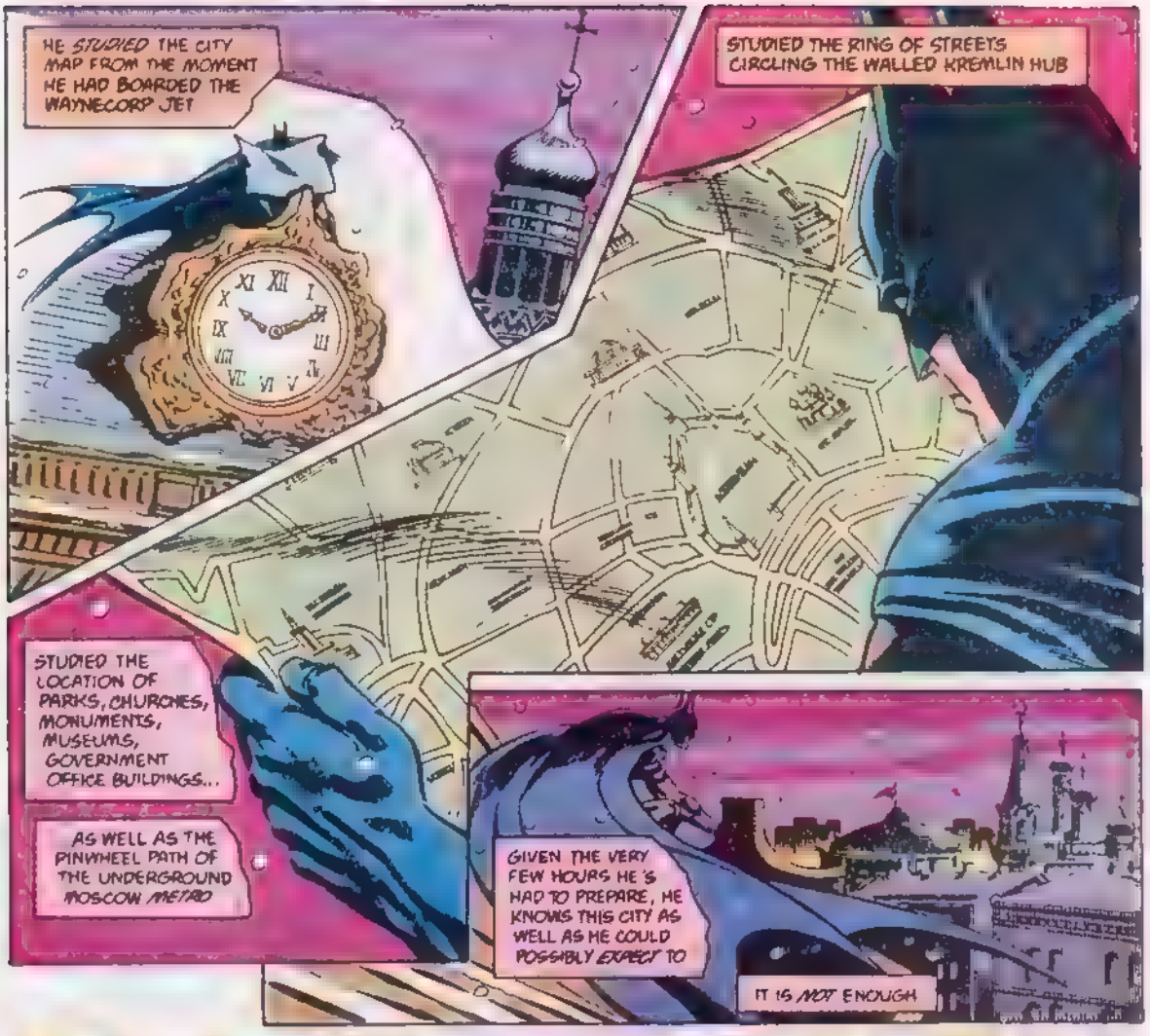
I HAD NEVER THOUGHT WE COULD COME TO SAINT BASIL'S SO OPENLY, VASILY.
TIMES CHANGE, MARSALA. IT IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED WISE TO DENY MAN HIS NEED TO WORSHIP.
ST. BASIL'S HAS BEEN HERE FIVE HUNDRED YEARS. IT WILL ENDURE FIVE HUNDRED MORE.
BUT I NEVER BELIEVED THAT EVEN A PARTY MEMBER LIKE ME COULD ATTEND WITHOUT RETRIBUTION.
IT IS A THING OF BEAUTY.
IVANA, HASER-- GO FIND US A PLACE. WE WILL BE RIGHT THERE.
AHH--THIS WARMS MY HEART.
THAT IS NOT ALL THAT WILL BE WARMED, VASILY RAMENKI.
WHAT? WHO ARE YOU?
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT IS GASOLINE!
THIS RELIGION IS AGAINST ALL WE BELIEVE.
7

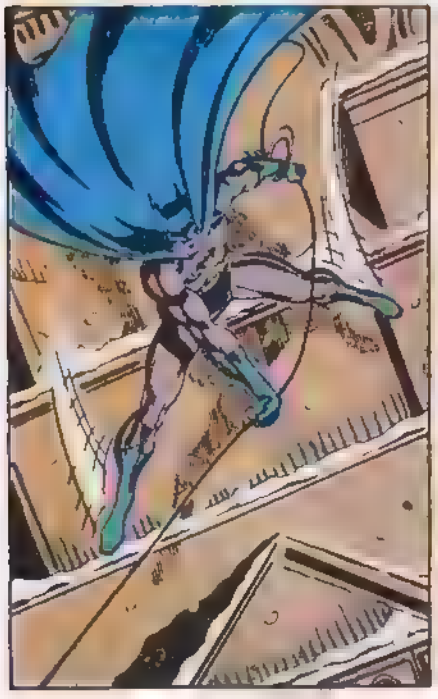
MOTHER--FATHER!!
HELP THEM--SOMEBODY HELP THEM!
NNNOOOO--STAYYYY BACKKKK
NO...NO...NO...
MISTER BRUCE WAYNE? MISTER BRUCE WAYNE?
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?
MR. BRUCE WAYNE
AHHH, MR. WAYNE? GOOD. PLEASE TO COME WITH ME.
I'M FOLLOWING, BUT I WOULD LOVE TO KNOW WHERE. AND WHAT ABOUT MY BAGGAGE?
AHH, YES. BORIS WILL GET LUGGAGE. BORIS, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?
I AM ANNA PETROVA. I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO SHOW YOU POSSIBLE MANUFACTURING SITES.
YOU HAVE BIG COMPANY, YES?
BIG ENOUGH.
8

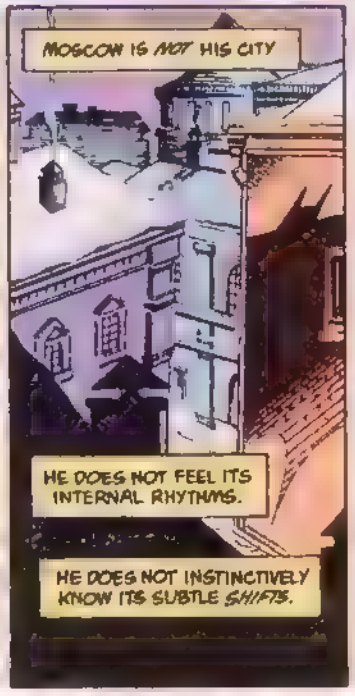
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE TO FRESHEN UP. POSSIBLY GET SOME SLEEP. IT WAS A LONG FLIGHT.
OF COURSE. FIRST STOP IS HOTEL.
YOU SLEEP. I WAIT. WHEN YOU WAKE, I SHOW YOU SIGHTS, NO?
I MAY BE AWHILE. WHY DON'T I CALL WHEN I'M READY?
NO. IS OKAY, I WAIT HERE. HAVE GOOD SLEEP.
SORRY, I DON'T NEED A SHADOW.
I'LL CALL YOU LATER.
AHHH, MISTER BRUCE WAYNE.
YOU DESIRE SOMETHING?
UMMM, JUST THOUGHT I'D GET SOME DINNER.
CARE TO JOIN ME?
DINNER? IS GOOD.
COME, BORIS-- WE GO TO DINNER.
BORIS?
RIGHT. BORIS.
9

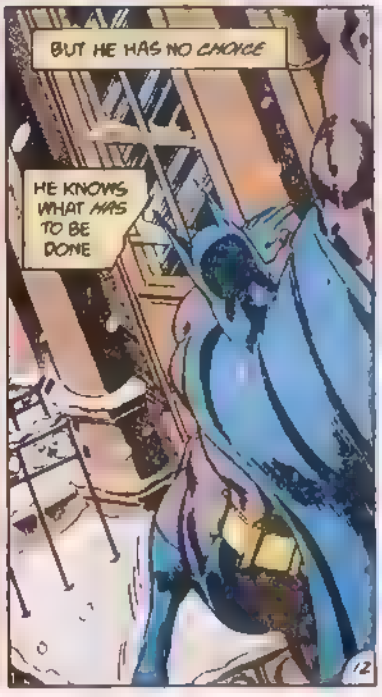
WE DO NOT EAT HERE, YOU KNOW AMERICANS, FRENCH, BRITISH, THEY ALL COME. YOU WILL LIKE THIS
OUR FOOD IS MUCH MORE SIMPLE
I CAN EAT IN AMERICAN STYLE RESTAURANTS ANY DAY I'D RATHER TRY ONE OF YOURS
I COME HERE OFTEN THE FOOD IS VERY . VERY GOOD. IS BETTER?
CERTAINLY MORE ATMOSPHERIC.
BRUCE? BRUCE WAYNE? IS THAT YOU?
IT IS YOU
MY GOD, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
VICKI VALE, RIGHT? YOU'RE ABOUT THE LAST PERSON I EXPECTED TO SEE HERE
THEN YOU'RE NOT READING GOTHAM VIEW OR YOU'D KNOW I WAS ASSIGNED TO DO SOME PHOTO ESSAYS OF THE SOVIET UNION
"RUSSIA UNDER GLASNOST" CATCHY?
UHH--AHEM!
OH, RIGHT I'M SORRY, ANNA
ANNA, THIS IS VICKI VALE, WE MET A YEAR OR SO AGO WHEN SHE TOOK SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF MY HOME
HOME! THAT'S LIKE CALLING THE KREMLIN A SMALL GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDING
HOW MANY ROOMS YOU'VE GOT, BRUCE? SEVENTY, EIGHTY?
I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER COUNTED THEM.
UHHHH, I AM ANNA PETROVA, FROM THE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OOHHH, A WORK DINNER, YOU'RE SLIPPING, BRUCE

THAT WAS WONDERFUL WE'LL HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN WHEN I GET TO GOTHAM
WHY WAIT? HOW ABOUT LUNCH TOMORROW?
MR. WAYNE--YOU HAVE BUSINESS.
OH, RIGHT. AND BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE, THEY KEEP TELLING ME.
I REALLY SHOULD GIVE UP BUSINESS.
GOTHAM THEN, VICKI. AND I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW AFTERNOON, MISS PETROVA.
NO. I BE HERE EIGHT O'CLOCK. IN MORNING
THEY HAVE AN EIGHT O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, TOO?
WHAT WILL THEY THINK OF NEXT?
HE GORGEOUS, BUT HE'S GOT ALL THE SUBSTANCE OF FLASH PAPER.
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT COMES FROM NEVER HAVING TO WORK A DAY IN YOUR LIFE.
NO...
"...I SUSPECT THERE IS MORE TO MR BRUCE WAYNE THAN HE SHOWS.
"MUCH MORE"


HE STUDIED THE CITY MAP FROM THE MOMENT HE HAD BOARDED THE WAYNECORP JET
STUDIED THE RING OF STREETS CIRCLING THE WALLED KREMLIN HUB
STUDIED THE LOCATION OF PARKS, CHURCHES, MONUMENTS, MUSEUMS, GOVERNMENT OFFICE BUILDINGS...
AS WELL AS THE PINWHEEL PATH OF THE UNDERGROUND MOSCOW METRO
GIVEN THE VERY FEW HOURS HE'S HAD TO PREPARE, HE KNOWS THIS CITY AS WELL AS HE COULD POSSIBLY EXPECT TO
IT IS NOT ENOUGH




MOSCOW IS NOT HIS CITY
HE DOES NOT FEEL ITS INTERNAL RHYTHMS.
HE DOES NOT INSTINCTIVELY KNOW ITS SUBTLE SHIFTS.


BUT HE HAS NO CHOICE
HE KNOWS WHAT HAS TO BE DONE
12

DETECTIVE NIKITA KRAKOV IS NOT JAMES GORDON
BUT IN A PINCH...
SHHHH.
I KNOW YOU SPEAK ENGLISH, DETECTIVE KRAKOV I CHECKED YOUR FILES BEFORE
THEY TELL ME YOU'RE A GOOD COP.
AND YOU ARE THE AMERICAN, THE ONE THEY CALL THE BATMAN. I HAVE SEEN YOU IN OUR NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS.
THEY SAY YOU MAY BE A CRIMINAL. BUT I HAVE, EH, HEARD OTHER STORIES
WHAT IS TRUE?
I STOP CRIMINALS
SO DO I WE THEN HAVE A BOND.
YOU ARE HERE ABOUT THE DEMON?
YOU KNOW?
I AM CERTAIN YOU ARE NOT CONCERNED WITH OUR BLACK MARKETERS OR JUVENILE DELINQUENTS, EH?
HMMM, YES, THERE ARE THOSE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO PERSUADE WE POLICE ARE SOMETIMES RESTRAINED BY, EH, PROCEDURE.
YOU ARE NOT I WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH NAMES OF ROSYNSKI'S ASSOCIATES WHO SPEAK ENGLISH.
BUT BE CAREFUL YOU HAVE NO SANCTION HERE
.. NIKITA, THANK YOU
I'M USED TO IT
3

HE WENT OFF TO MOSCOW? BUT WHY DIDN'T HE--
OH, I UNDERSTAND. YEAH, THANKS, ALFRED.
NOW EVERYONE I KNOW IS SOMEWHERE OUT OF THIS COUNTRY.
YEAH, MY MOM AND DAD ARE WHO KNOWS WHERE .. DOING SOMETHING ABOUT MEDICAL SUPPLIES OR WHATEVER
DAD DOESN'T TALK MUCH ABOUT IT
ALFRED, CAN WE CONTINUE MY TRAINING? I THINK I REALLY NEED TO GET AWAY THIS WEEKEND.
GREAT, YEAH. THANKS
NOK NOK
SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR, ALFRED. SEE YOU SATURDAY.
YEAH? YOU NEED SOMETHING?
I--I THINK I'M LOST I JUST STARTED HERE AND CAN'T FIND MY ROOM.
I'M REBECCA CURLEY.
WELL, REBECCA, FIRST YOU'RE IN THE WRONG BUILDING. THE GIRLS' DORMS ARE THE NEXT STREET OVER
YOUR GRADE SHOULD BE ROOMING ON THE FIRST FLOOR
OKAY, THANKS.
HAVE FUN, REBECCA. MAYBE I'LL SEE YOU AT THE CAFETERIA SOMEDAY.
OKAY. BYE.
HMMM BRUCE IS OUT OF TOWN AND ALFRED ASKS ABOUT MY PARENTS.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
14

WELL? THIS IS FIFTH BUILDING WE SEE TODAY.
I KNOW, ANNA-- MY FEET KEEP REMINDING ME.
I'M JUST NOT SURE WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
BUT I'LL KNOW IT WHEN I SEE IT.
YOU THINK WE CAN CONTINUE THIS TOMORROW? I'M EXHAUSTED.
FOR ONCE WE AGREE.
TOMORROW MORNING, THEN.
WHY DO WE WAIT, NIKOLAY? I DO NOT LIKE IT HERE SPIRITS, CREATURES -- THEY BREED IN PLACES LIKE THIS.
I WOULD RATHER BE WITH ELIZAVETA.
SHE WILL STAY WARM, YAKOV. AND FORGET YOUR SILLY MYTHS. IF GREGOR DESIRES OUR PRESENCE,
HE DOESN'T I DO.
WHO-- WHAT IS IT?
HE IS A DEMON! THERE-- I TOLD YOU THEY WERE HERE.
VOLKH! THE WOLFWIZARD VOLKH!
H-HE IS ALL-POWERFUL... A BLOODTHIRSTY WERE-WOLF -- A WIZARD...
.. AND A MAGICIAN
15

D-DON'T HURT ME I WILL DO A-ANYTHING!
YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
Y-YES! YOU CAN CHANGE SHAPE YOU TURNED YOUR ARMY INTO ANTS AND DESTROYED AN INDIAN KINGDOM
Y-YOU TORE THE INDIAN TSAR INTO A THOUSAND PIECES. AS A WARRIOR YOU ARE INVINCIBLE.
TH-THEY DON'T BELIEVE IN YOU, BUT I DO... I ALWAYS DID
PLEASE, VOLKH-- PLEASE DON'T HURT ME
YOU KNOW GREGOR DOSYNSKI, THE DEMON DESPITE ALL YOU TOLD THE POLICE, YOU KNOW HOW TO CONTACT HIM
I WANT HIM, YAKOV GO TO HIM. TELL HIM THE ONE WHO DESTROYED THE BEAST NOW WANTS HIM.
YOU WILL TELL HIM WHERE TO FIND ME.
YOU WILL TELL HIM EVERYTHING EXACTLY AS I TELL IT TO YOU..
...OR HEAVEN ITSELF WON'T SAVE YOU FROM ME
I-I WILL.
I SWEAR I WILL
YOU STUPID IDIOT. HE IS NO DEMON. HE IS NO WEREWOLF
HE IS A BAT A BAT WHO MADE A FOOL OF YOU--
--A BAT WHO DESTROYED MY MASTER!
AND A BAT WHOM I WILL MOST PAINFULLY KILL!
16

BATMAN.
THE LOBNOE MESTO! VERY APPROPRIATE, BATMAN.
THEY ONCE CALLED THIS THE PLACE OF SKULLS.
...THE PLACE OF EXECUTIONS.
FALSE DMITRY WAS BURNED HERE AND HIS ASHES SHOT FROM A CANNON TOWARD THE WEST.
TWO THOUSAND REBELS WERE EXECUTED HERE BY PETER THE GREAT HIMSELF.
YES, AMERICAN--
-- THIS WILL MAKE YOU A VERY APPROPRIATE BURIAL GROUND!

THE BEAST TRAINED ME, AMERICAN
HE FED ME SPECIAL STEROIDS, MAKING ME STRONGER THAN ANY MAN
WAM
FASTER THAN ANY MAN
MY SKIN WAS HARDENED, MY NERVES PARTIALLY DEADENED SO I CANNOT FEEL PAIN
I AM VIRTUALLY IMPERVIOUS TO HARM
EVERYTHING I AM--
--I OWE TO THE MAN YOU DESTROYED
I WILL HAVE MY SATISFACTION.
HE WILL HAVE HIS REVENGE!
18

EXCELLENT, AMERICAN.
BUT THEN I EXPECTED NOTHING LESS.
IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN A MASTER TO BEST THE KISBEAST.
TOK
YOUR EXPERTISE MAKES MY VICTORY THAT MUCH SWEETER.

WHEN I AM DONE WITH YOU, BATMAN--
-- THEN THE FINAL TRAITORS WILL PERISH.
OH, YOU SHOULD BE THERE. ON THAT SPECIAL NIGHT.
THE FLAMES OF SOVIET-AMERICAN COOPERATION WILL FAN HIGH INTO THE SKY.
AND THAT IS THE PRECISE MOMENT THE FINAL TRAITOR WILL DIE...
...AND ALL HOPES FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS WILL END--
OH. A WASTED MOVE, AMERICAN. I TOLD YOU I CANNOT FEEL PAIN.
BUT YOUR COUNTRY WILL WHEN THEY SEE HOW POWERFUL WE CAN TRULY BE.
WE WILL SHRUG OFF THE ASHES OF WEAKNESS.
WE WILL RISE TO BE AS GREAT AS STALIN TOLD US WE WERE.
WE WILL ACHIEVE OUR GLORIOUS--
NO!!

THIS WILL NOT HELP YOU, BATMAN.
I WILL NOT BE DEFEATED.
NOW!!
WHAT?!?
〈WEAPONS READY. AIM FOR DOSYNSKI ALONE.〉
〈IF YOU MUSN'T HIT THE AMERICAN, DON'T FIRE.〉
YOU LED ME HERE. THIS WAS NO BATTLE BETWEEN PEERS.
THIS WAS A LIE.
I'M NOT HERE TO PLAY GAMES WITH YOU.
I DON'T FIGHT FOR THE THRILL OF BATTLE.
AND I DON'T FIGHT UNLESS THERE'S NO RECOURSE.
21

NO! I WILL NOT BE TAKEN LIKE THIS.
I WILL NOT BE TAKEN AT ALL.
UHHGGHH
<HOLD ALL FIRE. HOLD ALL FIRE!!>
<SURROUND RED SQUARE. DON'T LET DOSYNSKI ESCAPE.>
YOUR TRICKERY ONLY PROVES HOW WEAK MY PEOPLE HAVE BECOME. THEY NEED AN AMERICAN TO LEAD THEM.
BUT WE WILL BECOME STRONG AGAIN.
AND WE WILL BURY YOU ALL!
HE KNOWS THIS CITY.
HE KNOWS EVERY STREET, EVERY INTERSECTION, EVERY BACK ALLEY, EVERY SEWER, EVERY TUNNEL.
THIS CITY BELONGS TO THE DEMON.
AND NO MATTER WHAT HE MUST DO, HE WILL SAVE IT FROM ITSELF.
NEXT ISSUE: CHAPTER TWO BLOOD ALLEY!